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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : **Confirmation No. 6927**
Motoki NUMATA et al. : Attorney Docket No. 2005_0725A
Serial No. 10/534,913 : Group Art Unit 1625
Filed July 5, 2005 : Examiner Taylor V. Oh
METHOD FOR PRODUCING
TEREPHTHALIC ACID : **Mail Stop: AMENDMENT**

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action of December 2, 2008, Applicants submit the following remarks in support of the patentability of the presently claimed invention over the disclosures of the references relied upon by the Examiner in rejecting the claims. Further and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of these remarks.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The rejection of claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Packer et al. (U.S. 4,438,279) in view of O'Meadhra et al. (U.S. 6,689,903) is respectfully traversed.

The Position of the Examiner

The Examiner takes the position that Packer teaches a process of producing a terephthalic acid by oxidation of para xylene and the catalytic hydrogenation of the crude terephthalic acid. The Examiner admits that Applicants' invention differs from the prior art in that the claimed internal energy possessed by the terephthalic acid cakes or liquid on it does not specify its use for evaporating the liquid in the cake. The Examiner further admits that Packer fails to teach or disclose the use of a screen bowl centrifuge or a rotary